

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
May 26, 2010

Present: Lennon, Miller, Duffy (chair), Stoddard, Matthews, Walton, Richard Parnas (guest)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

The April 29, 2010 minutes were accepted as amended.

UConn Engineering Professor, Richard Parnas, provided background information on biofuels and briefed the committee on the University's biodiesel project. For every gallon of gasoline burned, 500 grams of CO₂ are emitted, compared to 375 grams for ethanol (similar to diesel emissions), and 100 grams for biodiesel, calculated on a lifecycle basis. It takes almost as much fossil fuel to make ethanol as its output. Corn is a poor feedstock; soybeans are not much better. Palm oil production is resulting in the destruction of Asian rain forests. Hemp oil is an excellent feedstock which performs much better in cold climates. Algae is still in the experimental stage. Dr. Parnas has been operating a fuel quality testing lab at the University for about a year, which benefits small producers and stimulates markets. Compared to other testing labs, UConn's testing fees are 75% cheaper. The lab is very close to being self-sufficient. Chemistry professor Steven Suib received a \$1.5 million grant to begin a pilot scale biodiesel production facility at UConn. Once the location is determined, the facility will be capable of producing 50,000 to 60,000 gallons per year. Currently, UConn is supplying 5,000 gallons per year for the UConn buses. UConn dining halls and Pratt and Whitney supply the fryolator oil feedstock. With the expansion of production, the Town of Mansfield has expressed interest in purchasing some of the biodiesel and helping to arrange restaurant participation in the project.

Walton distributed "Dialing back energy use" and the "Mansfield Board of Education School Buildings Project Recommendation to Mansfield Town Council," dated May 24, 2010, for the committee to read.

Walton reported that the Energy Education Team will be working on getting 18 more CleanEnergyOptions sign ups to earn another 1 kilowatt (for a total of four kilowatts) that can be added to the EO Smith roof array.

Matthews stated that the school buildings project recommendation packet includes the sustainability committee's letter to the Board of Education. The Board of Education has asked that the sustainability committee help with selecting building sites for two new schools. It was suggested that interested parties be invited to the June meeting.

Duffy asked that the school buildings project and a presentation to the Town Council be placed on next month's agenda. The presentation to Town Council can be developed from a draft dated 11-4-09 of short and long term goals. Matthews volunteered to update the goals for the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk